

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 001356

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR DS, DS/DSS, DS/IP/WHA, DS/IP/ITA,  
DS/DSS/OSAC, WHA/EX AND WHA/BSC,CA/OCS/ACS/WHA, POSTS FOR  
RSO AND PSO, PASS TO TSA AND DHS AT POSTS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [BR](#) [CA](#) [KCRM](#) [SC](#)

SUBJECT: INCREASED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AT SAO PAULO'S  
GUARULHOS AIRPORT

11. (U) Two incidents involving American citizens within the last month at or near Sao Paulo's Guarulhos International airport have highlighted what has already been perceived by many as a significant rise in criminal incidents targeting travelers moving through the airport. In both cases the victims appeared to be targets of opportunity as opposed to being American.

12. (U) On 12/09/2005, the local newspapers reported that an American citizen named David Lee Collson was assaulted by two unidentified Brazilian males in a bathroom at the airport. The attackers knocked Collson unconscious and robbed him of approximately \$900 dollars. No further details were provided except that Collson was a tourist visiting his Brazilian girlfriend. Collson was reportedly taken to a local hospital where he was treated and released. Attempts to contact Collson by the Consulates American Citizen Services were negative. RSO has contacted Brazilian law enforcement authorities for additional information.

13. (U) On 12/07/05 RSO received information from local Monsanto Co. security representatives that on 11/02/2005, two of their US contractors, along with a Brazilian military police driver, were riding in a luggage van to the airport when they became victims to an attempted carjacking near the Caesar Park hotel, approximately 10 minutes away from the airport. One motorcycle with two passengers, one armed with a handgun and one vehicle with four passengers, all armed with the same type handgun, attempted to force the van off the road. The military police officer used evasive maneuvers and continued driving, at one point reportedly almost forcing the other vehicles off the road and preventing them from passing the van. The incident was short in duration and the attackers peeled off, either fearing exposure from their close proximity to the airport or frustrated from the resistance. No shots were fired and there were no injuries. Monsanto did not file a police report since they were departing immediately from the country. RSO has contacted Brazilian law enforcement authorities for additional information. RSO advised Monsanto that RSO or OSAC in Washington DC should be advised immediately in incidents such as these.

14. (U) The media reports surrounding the first incident featured a startling statistic that the Military police has cut its police presence at the airport by 70%, from fifty officers to 15. RSO contacted the Brazilian Military Police and verified that the actual figure was 50%, still a significant reduction in security and a significant concern given that Guarulhos airport in Sao Paulo is the major airline hub for South America.

15. (U) RSO Actions: RSO disseminated the details of these incidents to all US Consulate employees with a security notice. The notice also reminded employees to take the proper security precautions as previously recommended by the RSO office. All American employees and their dependents have already been instructed to take personal security and safety precautions during their mandatory in-brief upon arrival at this critical crime threat post and schedule refresher security briefings for those who have been at post for more than one year. A Consular Warden message was also issued and RSO is coordinating with OSAC in Headquarters for a similar security posting on the website. RSO will provide additional information should it become available.  
MCMULLEN